

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 6, with the following amended paragraph:

The present application is a continuation of ~~USSN~~ U.S. Application No. 09/645,432, filed on August 23, 2000, now U.S. Pat. No. 6,656,449, which is a continuation-in-part of ~~USSN~~ U.S. Application No. 09/255,397, filed on February 22, 1999, now U.S. Pat. No. 6,299,858, which derives priority from U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/075,783, filed on February 23, 1998, and U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/100,950, filed on September 18, 1998, each of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety for all purposes. Commonly owned copending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 60/110,464, filed December 1, 1998 is directed to related subject matter and is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety for all purposes.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 27 with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 17. Representative embryos re-stained for microscopic observation after OD (405nm) measurement. A. 24 hpf; B. 48 hpf; and C. 72 hpf. The arrows indicate the site of the SIVs formation. At 24 and 48 hpf, the SIVs are not yet present. In contrast, the SIVs are quite obvious by 72 hpf.